

Utilization of road tax and toll tax

373. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that from every vehicle sold in the market road tax is charged;
- (b) if so, where this amount would be utilized/or is utilized;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government are charging toll tax on almost all the Highways in the country;
- (d) if so, whether Government are taking any steps to combine the road tax with toll tax; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Road tax on motor vehicles is levied by the State Governments under entry 57 of the State List of Constitution of India. No part thereof is deposited with the Central Government.

(c) The Central Government is concerned with development and maintenance of National Highways. Toll (user fee) is levied on the stretches of National Highways converted to four-lanes or more, all National Highways improvement projects/bridges and by-passes taken up on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis and on the following categories of bridges.

- (i) costing more than Rs. 25 lakh and upto Rs. 100 lakh and opened to traffic on or after 1.4.1976 but before 1.5.1992.
- (ii) costing more than Rs.100 lakh and upto Rs.500 lakh which have been completed and opened to traffic on or after 1.5.1992 but before 4.12.2001.
- (iii) costing more than Rs. 500 lakh and completed on or after 4.12.2001.
- (d) and (e) Toll on National Highways is an user fee for maintenance of National Highways. Combining road tax and toll on National Highways is not possible since the purpose and authority for levy of these tax/ fee are different.